

From: Louis Durand [louisdurandiii@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 12:48 PM
To: lfaeth@az.gov
Cc: Martha L. Seaman; Louis Durand
Subject: Green house gas and current AZDEQ rulemaking for Solid Waste Facilities

Office of the Governor
Ms. Faeth,

I left a voice mail for you earlier today, but I was informed an e-mail message might be more appropriate. I believe that we may miss an opportunity to control carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and other VOC's if current solid waste rulemaking does not include some off-set to the financial benefits associated with landfill investment and the incentive to earn tax free income, not available to alternative landfill reduction options, either now and potentially into the future.

I believe that if alternatives to landfills, such as a composting or any recycling component, were required and tied directly to any future landfill sites we would be better positioned to off-set the tax free benefits of landfill investing alone. We would also enjoy the environmental security and cost benefits associated with one location to drop-off true waste and organic matter combined. The landfill operation would provide the appropriate and required safeguards for the entire site, while the "alternative" composting unit would occupy, some usable percentage of the site, as perhaps a tenant at reasonable cost.

I believe the State must contribute more to alternatives by providing incentives, off-sets, and direct tax breaks to limit both unnecessary GHG emissions, growing mountains of mummified waste, and all other landfill specific pollution issues into the future in hopes of avoiding additional Superfund site designations across Arizona. Acting now would also help Arizona meet any future GHG goals.

Additionally, I believe some effort should be directed to the feasibility of the curbside collection of kitchen scraps and vegetable matter for composting. Not only for the obvious reason of reducing our landfill footprint, but also to provide a local product to improve our soil for farming (food and ornamental), reduce water usage on crops, reduce the use of chemicals and fertilizers, and to control particle 10 dust (and dust in general). Landfills and bio-fuel by-products do not compare to the potential long term benefits of large scale composting to our economy, environment, local food production, and the general welfare of all Arizonans. I have discussed this idea with a number of local farmers and have received positive responses. As you might expect, this would be a huge undertaking, but the benefits clearly outweigh any negatives. I must admit, I have had little luck getting any Arizona, or Maricopa official to appreciate the waste of our waste, if you will.

Your thoughts would be appreciated. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to call (480-816-9689).

Thank you,
Lou Durand

Ms. Seaman, Please note my comments for the record. Thank you